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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/705,134	11/02/2000	Alan E. Reamon	PD-99W231	6154

7590 12/18/2002

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EXAMINER

LEE, BENNY T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2817

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8 Oct 2002
- ☒ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire Three (3) month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 7; 11, 12 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 7; 11 is/are rejected.
- ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2 Nov 2002 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☒ The proposed drawing correction, filed on 8 Oct 2002 is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

-- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES --

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The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 3, in the replacement paragraphs to lines 25-28, note that "prior art strip line 1" should correctly be --prior art microstrip line 1-- and "microstrip monolithic 5 constructions" should be rephrased as --strip line 5 monolithic constructions-- for a proper characterization. In the replacement paragraph to page 3, line 30- page 4, line 2, note that "microstrip" should correctly be --stripline--. Page 7, line 14, note that "said" should be deleted as being unnecessary. Note that reference labels (2, 3, 4) need to be described with respect to fig. 1 as amended. Similarly, note that reference label "50" needs to be described in the descriptions of figs. 3, 4, 5. Likewise reference labels (16, 16', 16") need description relative to fig. 5. Appropriate correction is required.

The drawings are objected to because of the following: In fig. 6, reference label -- 10 -- still needs to be added. Correction is required.

The following claims have been found objectionable for reasons set forth below:

At each occurrence throughout the claims, note that form and forming should be rewritten as -- provide --- and -- providing --, respectively.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Landis (of record).

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Landis (fig. 11) discloses an on-chip multi-layer shielded monolithic transmission line comprising top most and bottom ground layers and three part signal layer. Note that intervening layers of dielectric (e.g. 78 in Fig. 6) separate the conductive layers. Note that the center signal conducting strip is laterally spaced from terminal strips (in the same plane) by dielectric spacer material (e.g. 78). Moreover, note that additional conductive strips electrically connect in register between terminal strips and ground planes to provide an enclosed multi-layered shielding structure surrounding signal strip. Note that of particular interest in the Fig. 11 embodiment is that the distance between the top & bottom ground layers is the same as the distance between the terminal strips, by virtue of the simulated "circular" configuration which provides for a same diameter relative to the center of the configuration.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was

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made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis (of record).

Note that fig. 10 discloses an on-chip multi-layer shielded monolithic transmission line arrangement comprising a plurality of laterally spaced signal strips (96) which are individually surrounded and shielded by ground planes (70, 92) and side walls (94). Moreover, note that the plural arrangement of fig. 10 is manufactured in the like manner for the signal transmission line arrangement (e.g. see fig. 8). However, the fig. 10 embodiment does not disclose that the plural transmission line arrangement has a spacing between upper and lower ground layers which is the same as a spacing between lateral spaced strips.

As described above in the preceding rejection, the Fig. 11 embodiment discloses an on-chip transmission line arrangement where the spacing of the upper and lower ground layers is the same as the spacing between laterally spaced strips by virtue of it's quasi circular configuration thus resulting in a substantially same diameter throughout the transmission line arrangement.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to have realized the rectangular shaped shielded transmission line arrangements in the Fig. 10 embodiments as transmission line arrangements having the configuration of Fig. 11. Such a modification would have been considered an obvious substitution of art recognized equivalent transmission line arrangements, especially since the

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fig. 11 embodiment would have function in the same manner as the transmission line arrangements in Fig. 10, thereby suggesting the obviousness of such a modification.

Applicant's arguments filed 8 October 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants' have argued that the Landis reference fails to disclose: 1) an "on-chip" transmission line arrangement; and 2) that the shielded transmission line arrangement is "square in shape".

With respect to the first one of applicants' argument, it should be noted that Landis indeed is an "on-chip" arrangement. As is evident from, for example, figs. 1 & 3, the shielded transmission line arrangements are "embedded" in a substrate which is suitable for "IC" (i.e. integrated circuit or "chip") applications and thus are indeed considered "on-chip". As for the "square" shaped transmission line arrangement, it should be noted that the pending claims, as amended, do not explicitly recite a "square" configuration and thus such argument is not commensurate with what is claimed. Moreover, it should be noted that by virtue of the substantially quasi circular configuration of fig. 1, the upper and lower ground layers have a spacing which is substantially the same as the spacing between appropriate laterally spaced strips disposed about the circumference of the quasi-circular configuration. For example, the lateral strips in the plane with the central strip have the same diameter as a diameter between a right side lateral strip above the right side strip in the plane and a left side lateral strip below the left side lateral strip in the plane.

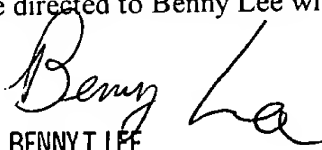
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Accordingly, for reasons set forth in the above rejections and rebuttal of applicants' arguments, the rejections continue to stand.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benny Lee whose telephone number is (703) 308 4902.


BENNY T. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2817

B. Lee

December 13, 2002